

SOUND OFF

“...the snarky, snotty observations by Metra’s customers about fellow commuters ... offer some of the best free entertainment around.” - SouthtownStar, March 13, 2009

Snore off

Oh, no! What happened to the “Sound Off” column? It was boring! I mean I could deal with one or two “nice-nice” articles but all of them? I could handle fare increases and delays but don’t change my “Sound Off” column. I love to hear about the weird things that go on because it truly reflects what’s happening on our trains. I would so look forward to reading each issue and it was always good for a laugh.

Come on — bring back the snarky, snotty observations!

Carole

Wow, we had no idea we were being, or even could be, too positive. Please accept our sincere apologies.

Enough already

I’m not gonna lie, I like to read *On The Bi-Level* for the snarky comments, but reading your November edition just made my day. Yes, the hustle and bustle grind of getting to and from work everyday isn’t fun. Whether you own up to it or not, we’ve all been rude to someone at some point. I really enjoyed the upbeat letters you published in this edition. That being said, don’t forget your bread and butter: snarky comments. I like to commiserate, “Yeah, that annoys the heck outta me too!” (And for the record, women’s perfume is no more annoying or stinky than men’s cologne!)

Lorie

OK, OK, we get it. We’re here to gripe. Let’s get to it.

Roll the tape

This is for the two women who rode the 5:30 p.m. Milwaukee District North train and got off at Forest Glen. You talked in the quiet car all the way to your stop today. I have seen you on that car before talking away even after you have been told you are on the Quiet Car. You ignored the person who reminded you. I know it is not the “silent” car but for goodness sakes, please get over yourselves. You were not talking in a quiet tone. Please sit in another car in the future. You two have no



regard for others. In the old days, you would have had tape put over your mouths. I just might start carrying a roll with me.

Pat

We know it’s tempting, but don’t do it! Perhaps you can simply imagine doing it. We’ve supplied the photo to help you visualize the peace.

Seat-hogging, part 221

As a long-time BNSF rider, I thought I’d seen it all, but a discouraging new trend appears to be emerging. A number of fellow commuters have discovered that sitting on the aisle side of the seat is an almost foolproof way to ensure they will have the whole seat to themselves (well, they sometimes share it with their iPads and handbags). Both men and women are the culprits here. C’mon, folks, unless you paid for a seat for your iPad, don’t make the rest of us step over you to get to the window. First in should get the window seat.

Karen

Are you saying there is no “I” in iPad? We agree. Maybe that strategy is new but it strikes us as just another variation of the ole’ seat-hogging theme.

Crowding the vestibule

The Vestibule, and the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, on the Milwaukee District North line. The good: those who stand in the vestibule and move aside for departing passengers. The bad: those who stand in the vestibule but do not move aside for departing passengers. The ugly: those who stand in the vestibule and get off at every stop and then get back on, causing the departing passengers to have to wait (while all remaining commuters have to wait for these people to get off/on at every stop, which delays the entire commute). It’s hard to believe this bad and ugly behavior exists. Ideally, everyone brings common sense to their commute, but of course, those without will continue to stand in the path of departing passengers. Can we make *On the Bi-Level* required reading?

Bill

We thought it already was required reading....

They are called trash cans

Thank you for allowing today to be my gripe session. On BNSF No. 1200, which leaves Route 59 at 4:38 a.m., I watched two people in the car I ride take the plastic off their morning papers and either leave it on the floor or tuck it behind the seat. When they leave, the plastic covering stays where they dropped it. Another person tucked his paper on the side between the seat and the window after reading it. This person also drank as much of his drink and then opened the cup and shook it upside down on the floor, making sure it was completely empty. I believe there are trash containers by each vestibule... couldn’t these papers and plastic coverings be put there?

MK

Well sure they could do that. But then what else would we find to complain about? Wait, never mind, we’re sure there will be something...